

AB 2237 Toxics in Packaging Prevention Act

THE POLLUTION PROBLEM

Every day Californians are exposed to harmful toxins. Groundwater contamination threatens drinking water supplies and soil contamination creates brownfields. This legislation aims to address the pollution problem at its source.

TARGETING THE SOURCE

Packaging comprises a huge proportion of the solid waste stream. Reducing the amount of toxic materials used to manufacture packaging will reduce the overall amount being passed through the solid waste stream into our soil, air, and water.

This legislation will allow Californians to focus on addressing the source of pollution instead of being forced to live with hazardous environmental contamination.

TOXICS IN PACKAGING PREVENTION ACT

This legislation will require manufacturers to decrease the use of toxic heavy metals in packaging materials. The reduction is incremental over a three-year period. The first year will require a reduction to 600 parts per million, the second year a reduction to 250 parts per million and the third year a reduction to 100 parts per million.

The packaging this legislation targets are the containers used to market, handle, or protect products. These containers are cases, crates, cups, pails, rigid foil, wrappers, wrapping film, bags, and tubs. The toxins this bill is directed at are *mercury, lead, cadmium, and hexavalent chromium*.

WHAT OTHER STATES ARE DOING

The Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse (TPCH) formed in 1992 to promote the Model Toxics in Packaging Legislation. The TPCH operates under the auspices of the Council of State Governments. This Model Legislation has been successfully adopted in eighteen other states: *Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin*.

If you support this legislation, please send letters to:

Assembly Member Judy Chu
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Sacramento, CA 95814

For more information, please contact Anita Garcia at anita.garcia@asm.ca.gov.